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CLAIMS

1. A method for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image
meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality
5 of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word,
comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of
expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects
on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those
10 sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of
retrieval objects; and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the
expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or
position of the expression word contained in each of said
15 retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object
map generation step of generating a retrieval object map
arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual
space on the basis of position derived at said first position
deriving step, a second position deriving step of deriving
20 position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with
reference to said expression word, and retrieval object
retrieving step of retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous
image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among
a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position
25 derived at said second position deriving step with reference
to said retrieval object map.

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2. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving step in said virtual space with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

3. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 1, wherein said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving step and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said retrieving object in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

4. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said retrieval object is data including said expressing word, and said method comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said retrieval object and expression word correspondence step of storing said retrieval object with correspondence with the expression word extracted in said expression word extracting step.

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5. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said retrieval objects are stored with attribute

information indicative of attributes of said retrieval object,
 said method comprises second retrieval object retrieving
 step of retrieving retrieval object corresponding to attribute
 information matching with a given attribute information among
 5 said plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the given
 attribute information,

said retrieval object retrieving step retrieves the
 retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image
 of said retrieving word among retrieval objects retrieved at
 10 said second retrieval object retrieving step.

6. A system for retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image
 meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality
 of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word,
 15 comprising:

expression word map storage means for storing an expression
 word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing
 sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending
 upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged,
 20 retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of
 retrieving objects, first position deriving means for deriving
 the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or
 position of the expression word contained in each of said
 retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object
 25 map generation means for generating a retrieval object map
 arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual
 space on the basis of position derived at said first position

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deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said retrieval object map.

7. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving means in said virtual space with reference to said retrieval object map in ascending order.

8. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 6, wherein said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the retrieval object at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving means and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said retrieving object in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said retrieval object map.

9. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein said retrieval object is data including said expressing word, and

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said system comprises expression word extracting means
for extracting said expression word from said retrieval object
and expression word correspondence means for storing said
retrieval object with correspondence with the expression word
5 extracted in said expression word extracting means.

10. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims
6 to 9, wherein said retrieval objects are stored with attribute
information indicative of attributes of said retrieval object,
10 said system comprises second retrieval object retrieving
means for retrieving retrieval object corresponding to attribute
information matching with a given attribute information among
said plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the given
attribute information,

15 said retrieval object retrieving means retrieves the
retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image
of said retrieving word among retrieval objects retrieved by
said retrieval object retrieving means.

20 11. A retrieving program for retrieving retrieval object of
sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word
among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given
retrieving word,

for a computer comprising expression word map storage
25 means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality
of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval
objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association

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of those sensuous images are arranged, retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of retrieving objects,

said program making to execute a process realized by first position deriving means for deriving the expression word
 5 corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, a retrieving object map generation means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position
 10 derived at said first position deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and retrieval object retrieving means for retrieving the retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image
 15 of said retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said retrieval object map.

12. A method for generating a retrieval object map to be used
 20 for a method of retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word using said retrieval object map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects
 25 on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of

expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of retrieval objects with correspondence to said expression words;

5 and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, and a retrieving object
10 map generation step of generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

15 13. A retrieval object map generating method as set forth in claim 12, wherein said retrieval object is stored with correspondence with a retrieval object describing document as descriptive text for said retrieval object and describing sensuous image of said retrieval object and a supplementary
20 document including said expression word supplementing said retrieval object descriptive document,

said method comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said retrieval object descriptive document and said supplementary document
25 corresponding to said retrieval object with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position

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of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

14. A retrieval object map generating method as set forth
5 in claim 13, wherein each of said retrieval objects is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said retrieval object in addition to said retrieval object descriptive object and said supplementary document.

10 15. A system for generating a retrieval object map to be used for a system of retrieving retrieval object of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of retrieval objects on the basis of a given retrieving word using said retrieval object map, in which a plurality of
15 expression word expressing sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

expression word storage means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing
20 sensuous images of retrieval objects on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, retrieval object storage means for storing said plurality of retrieval objects with correspondence to said expression words, a first position deriving means for deriving the expression
25 word corresponded to said retrieval object or position of the expression word contained in each of said retrieving object in said virtual space, and a retrieving object map generation

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means for generating a retrieval object map arranging said respective retrieval objects on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

5 16. A retrieval object map generating system as set forth in claim 15, wherein said retrieval object storage means stores each of said retrieval object with correspondence with a retrieval object describing document as descriptive text for
10 retrieval object and a supplementary document including said expression word supplementing said retrieval object descriptive document,

said system comprises expression word extracting means for extracting said expression word from said retrieval object
15 descriptive document and said supplementary document corresponding to said retrieval object with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving means derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word
20 extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

17. A retrieval object map generating system as set forth in claim 16, wherein each of said retrieval objects is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative
25 of said retrieval object in addition to said retrieval object descriptive object and said supplementary document.

18. A method for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

including a first position deriving step of deriving the expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation step of generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step, a second position deriving step of deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image retrieving step of retrieving the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving step with reference to said graphic image map.

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at said second position deriving step in said virtual space with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

20. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 18, wherein
5 said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said second position deriving step and an origin of said virtual space and a straight line connecting a position of said graphic
10 image in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space, with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

21. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims 18 to 20, wherein each of said graphic image is stored with
15 correspondence with an attribute information indicative of attribute of said graphic image,

said method comprises second graphic image retrieving step of retrieving graphic image corresponding to attribute information matching with a given attribute information among
20 said plurality of graphic images on the basis of the given attribute information,

said graphic image retrieving step retrieves the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among graphic images retrieved at said second
25 graphic image retrieving step.

22. A system for retrieving graphic image of sensuous image

meeting with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given retrieving word, comprising:

expression word map storage means for storing an expression
 5 word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images, first position deriving means for deriving the
 10 expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation means for generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position
 15 derived at said first position deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image retrieving means for retrieving the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said
 20 retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said graphic image map.

23. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 22, wherein
 25 said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image at a position having smaller distance to a position derived at said second position deriving means in said virtual space

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with reference to said graphic image map in ascending order.

24. A retrieving system as set forth in claim 22, wherein
said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic image
5 at a position having smaller angle defined by a straight line
connecting a position in said virtual space derived by said
second position deriving means and an origin of said virtual
space and a straight line connecting a position of said graphic
image in said virtual space and the origin of said virtual space,
10 with reference to said graphic image map.

25. A retrieving system as set forth in any one of claims
22 to 24, wherein said graphic images are stored with attribute
information indicative of attributes of said graphic image,
15 said system comprises second graphic image retrieving
means for retrieving graphic image corresponding to attribute
information matching with a given attribute information among
said plurality of graphic images on the basis of the given
attribute information,

20 said graphic image retrieving means retrieves the graphic
image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said
retrieving word among graphic images retrieved at said second
graphic image retrieving means.

25 26. A retrieving method as set forth in any one of claims
22 to 25, which is applied for retrieval of hair style graphic
images expressing hair styles.

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27. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 26, wherein
said virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a
first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis,

5 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
smart as quantified on the other direction

 the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
10 femininity as quantified on the other direction

28. A retrieving method as set forth in claim 26, wherein
said virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a
first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis,

15 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
smart as quantified on the other direction

 the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
20 light as quantified on the other direction

29. A graphic image retrieving program for retrieving graphic
image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of retrieving
word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of a given
25 retrieving word, comprising:

 for a computer comprising expression word map storage
means for storing an expression word map, in which a plurality

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of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged, graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic images,

5 said program making to execute a process realized by first position deriving means for deriving the expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual space, a graphic image map generation means for generating a
10 graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving means, a second position deriving means for deriving position of said retrieving word on said virtual space with reference to said expression word, and graphic image
15 retrieving means for retrieving the graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of said retrieving word among a plurality of graphic images on the basis of the position derived at said second position deriving means with reference to said graphic image map.

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30. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis
25 of given retrieving word,

 a storing expression word map, in which a plurality of expression words expressing sensuous images of hair style

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graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

5 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of smart as quantified on the other direction

 the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
10 femininity as quantified on the other direction.

31. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of
15 hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis of given retrieving word,

 a storing expression word map, in which a plurality of expression words expressing sensuous images of hair style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate system
20 having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the sensuous images,

 said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
25 smart as quantified on the other direction

 the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of

light as quantified on the other direction.

32. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer,
retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting
5 with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of
hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis
of given retrieving word,

a storing graphic image map, in which a plurality of hair
style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate
10 system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to
said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the
sensuous images,

said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
15 smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of masculine
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
femininity as quantified on the other direction.

20 33. A graphic image retrieving data used by a computer
retrieving hair style graphic image of sensuous image meeting
with sensuous image of a retrieving word among a plurality of
hair style graphic images expressing hair styles on the basis
of given retrieving word,

25 a storing graphic image map, in which a plurality of hair
style graphic images on a virtual space is a space of coordinate
system having a first axis and a second axis perpendicular to

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said first axis, depending upon degree of association of the
sensuous images,

said first axis is assigned for amount of sense of dynamic
as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
5 smart as quantified on the other direction

the second axis is assigned for amount of sense of heavy
c as quantified on one axial direction and amount of sense of
light as quantified on the other direction

10 34. A method for generating a graphic image map to be used
for a method of retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting
with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of
graphic images to be retrieval objects on the basis of a given
retrieving word using said graphic image map, in which a plurality
15 of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images
on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those
sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

storing an expression word map, in which a plurality of
expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images
20 on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those
sensuous images are arranged, and storing said plurality of
graphic images with correspondence to said expression words;
and

including a first position deriving step of deriving the
25 expression word corresponded to said graphic image or position
of the expression word contained in each of said graphic image
in said virtual space, and a graphic image map generation step

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of generating a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said first position deriving step.

5 35. A graphic image map generating method as set forth in claim 34, wherein said graphic image is stored with correspondence with a graphic image describing document as descriptive text for said graphic image and describing sensuous image of said graphic image and a supplementary document
10 including said expression word supplementing said graphic image descriptive document,

said method comprises expression word extracting step of extracting said expression word from said graphic image descriptive document and said supplementary document
15 corresponding to said graphic image with reference to said expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.
20

36. A graphic image map generating method as set forth in claim 35, wherein each of said graphic images is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said graphic image in addition to said graphic image descriptive
25 object and said supplementary document.

37. A system for generating a graphic image map to be used

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for a system of retrieving graphic image of sensuous image meeting
with sensuous image of retrieving word among a plurality of
graphic images to be graphic images on the basis of a given
retrieving word using said graphic image map, in which a plurality
5 of expression word expressing sensuous images of graphic images
on a virtual space depending upon degree of association of those
sensuous images are arranged, comprising:

expression word storage means for storing an expression
word map, in which a plurality of expression word expressing
10 sensuous images of graphic images on a virtual space depending
upon degree of association of those sensuous images are arranged,
graphic image storage means for storing said plurality of graphic
images with correspondence to said expression words, a first
position deriving means for deriving the expression word
15 corresponded to said graphic image or position of the expression
word contained in each of said graphic image in said virtual
space, and a graphic image map generation means for generating
a graphic image map arranging said respective graphic images
on said virtual space on the basis of position derived at said
20 first position deriving step.

38. A graphic image map generating system as set forth in
claim 37, wherein said graphic image is stored with
correspondence with a graphic image describing document as
25 descriptive text for said graphic image and describing sensuous
image of said graphic image and a supplementary document
including said expression word supplementing said graphic image

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descriptive document,

said system comprises expression word extracting step
of extracting said expression word from said graphic image
descriptive document and said supplementary document
5 corresponding to said graphic image with reference to said
expression word map,

said first position deriving step derives the position of the expression word extracted at said expression word extracting step with reference to said expression word map.

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39. A graphic image map generating system as set forth in claim 38, wherein each of said graphic images is stored with correspondence with an attribute information indicative of said graphic image in addition to said graphic image descriptive
15 object and said supplementary document.

15